Joint Transportation Committee Driver Education Study Work Group, Summary of 8/1/2014 meeting

OTHER STATES PRESENTATION

- To get a driver license, 31 of 50 states require driver education for novice drivers under 18
- Of those 31, 12 allow the course (15-17 year olds) to be delivered online
- 4 other states allow online course delivery, but the course is either a very short course or allows a student to get a learner's permit at a younger age
- 11 states make requirements of novice drivers over 18: various combinations of driver education (6 states), learner's permit for a specified period of time (7 states), and supervised/practice driving (2 states).
 - 3 of the states requiring 18+ to take a driver education course allow the applicant to take the course online.
 - Requirements are for classroom hours only, except for MD
 - Course hours are mostly between 4 and 6 hours, except MD
 - MD: first time licensees under 25 must take 30 hours of classroom and 6 hours BTW and hold their learner's permit for 9 months

Questions to follow up on

For 18+, what age group did other states target (all 18+, 18-24, a smaller group?) Any states making driver education requirements for reinstatement? How long have states had the 18+ requirement, any outcomes analysis from these states?

DOL CURRICULUM UPDATE PRESENTATION

- DOL updating driver education curriculum and Driver Guide
- Part of broader Target Zero "inventory effort"
- Long process, potential Target Zero legislation in 2016
- Clarified curricula available from DOL:
 - State basic curriculum requirements: http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/drivertraining.html
 - Detailed course plan available on CD which meets requirements
- Early Warning Letter (18-21 year olds): sent after 1st moving violation, appears to have reduced the percentage of these drivers receiving a 2nd ticket

Additional information from Q&A

"Parent Guide" has a lot of useful information for 18+ but it is ignored because of its title. DOL may be asking for funding to address testing issues

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DEMONSTRATION OF ONLINE DRIVER EDUCATION: IDAHO & AAA

Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) Class

Driver Education is one of 250 semester on-line courses. IDLA is part of the Idaho public school system. The established course development process follows standards developed by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). Resources to develop course: 275 hours of staff time, including course development specialist and subject matter expert. Current budget to update: \$8,400.

Features of course:

- 5 units, about 1.5 weeks each, proctored exam. Many students use school facilities and equipment to take the course.
- Virtual classroom, meets conventional 30 hour classroom requirement.
- Partially self-paced, each unit has a detailed check list of tasks with specific due dates. In addition, student must schedule BTW sessions after certain units.
- Each unit has these kinds of documents and activities: homework checklist, study guide with exam topics, PowerPoints with voice over of a teacher, Fact Sheets, assignments to observe certain traffic situations and fill out observation form, chat rooms to discuss assignments, journal entries after BTW, quizzes based on course material not DMV test.
- Teacher available asynchronously and may have office hours. Teacher involvement methods: Announcements page (additional resources, tutoring opportunities, events, guest speakers), Office Hours (virtual meeting software), discussion boards, communications with driving instructors, intervention with struggling students, communication with students via text or email.
- Teachers are state certified, each course has an assigned teacher.
- Almost 100% completion rate. Students highly motivated because they get a driver's license at the end.
- Cost to student--\$75 per student plus BTW at driving school.

AAA Online Driver Education

AAA clubs requested development of an online driver education program. Most clubs want to offer this with an instructor "on standby." Instructor is available to answer questions. Can all be online, can also be broken up into modules to use in a classroom setting. Of the AAA clubs offering driver education, about 20 offer classroom, 10 offer online. Operating in California currently.

Designed after reviewing other online programs, sought to minimize text-intensive, passive information delivery, incorporate methods to engage students, deliver information in multiple ways. Quizzes at the end of units allow a student to progress if set performance level met. AAA Foundation paid for research and design of program, estimated to cost just over \$1 million. Course price set by local clubs: \$49 in CA.

The program can be tailored to any state's laws and specifications (number of hours, curriculum topics, percent correct on unit test allowing access to next unit, etc.).

Features demonstrated: Appealing graphics and sound effects, information in small bites, less sustained reading, game demonstrating difficulty of multi-tasking, crash-cam and accident report (both were of girls going off the road while paying attention to other things), hazard identification, video of lecture on a topic (what to do after an accident) with reinforcing exercises and information presented in different ways.

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DISCUSSION OF PILOT PROJECT PARAMETERS--Summary of comments, short version

General

What is definition of online?

Pilot Structure:

- Don't need a pilot, OSPI has a lot of experience with online education: Karl Nelson, SPI
- Research on safety outcomes, get good data: Liias, Hayes
- Phased implementation: Ryu, Sedelmeyer
- Measured approach for 15-17, faster for 18+

Evaluation:

- For 18 24, analysis would be simpler, comparing to no requirements
- For 15 17, evaluating new teaching methods for a quality program in 5 or 10 years
- Research results from a pilot for 18+ may not apply to 15 17 year olds, may help with implementation Objective/Outcomes?
 - Expand accessibility, 18 24; going online will expand access for either age group
 - Ensuring novice drivers get some training
 - Affordability
 - Reduction in collisions and enforcement actions.
 - Safety crash data will take a long time to develop
 - Exam success, OSPI currently looking at alternate accountability measures
 - Shouldn't use exam data, test is too easy
 - Look to Target Zero

Process & Details

- DOL to fill in details of class, how online is integrated or used to supplement
- Stakeholder group should include, not limited to: law enforcement, insurance industry, parents, students
- Must verify who's taking course, less of an issue if blended classroom and online
- Proctored exams, avoid teaching to the test
- Deal later with scholarships, fee waivers
- OSPI has detailed standards that K12 online courses must meet

15-17 year olds

- Not IF but WHEN, question of whether it will be a quality program, need to measure outcomes
- Protect current learning environment for this group for now
- Online should supplement not replace
- Will add costs if hours added, cost of course is already a problem
- Blended classroom and online, not 100% online
- Teacher-directed, still allow for face-to-face
- Online must meet standards: OSPI, other best practices

18 and older

- Safety focus, this population hasn't been targeted by safety initiatives
- Draft bill: Apply to novice 18-24 drivers, also reinstatements, short course, DOL sets minimum requirements, include BTW, allow online of all or part of classroom instruction
- Job Corps for older students: short course not enough, affordability an issue
- Other: Subsidy program needed, language barriers may also be a problem, send early warning letter to all ages, motorcycle education may provide a good model.